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DIGEST OF FUR LAWS NOW AVAILABLE

A digest of the fur laws of all the States and of Canada, Newfoundland, and Mexico, including such restrictions as seasons, bag limits, prohibited trapping methods, licenses, possession and sale of animals and furs, shipment and export, propagation, and bounties, is presented in Farmers' Bulletin 1618-F, "Fur Laws for the Season 1929-30," the fifteenth annual summary of its kind compiled by the Bureau of Biological Survey and issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Legislatures of all States except Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Virginia have had their regular sessions since last year's summary was issued. The principal trends of the new legislation are toward shortening of trapping seasons, removal of certain species from the trapping lists by extending or fixing close periods for definite or indefinite terms, and increasing license fees for trapping. In a few instances, protection has been removed from certain species. Protection in some States was for the first time afforded some of the fur animals: In Arizona, a close season was provided on muskrats, raccoons, opossums, and otters; in Iowa, foxes, civet cats, and opossums were added to the protected list; in Nevada, muskrats are now protected; in New Brunswick, raccoons are protected; and in the Northwest Territories lynxes now have protection.

Present tendencies toward wasting of fur resources are reviewed and suggestions on conservation are offered. Fur farming has made substantial progress,

and this is commented upon, but, the bulletin points out, although fur farming supplements the supply of furs taken by trappers, it is not a substitute for the conservation of fur-bearing animals in the wild.

"Species of fur animals that have become scarce or have diminished in numbers need more protection," says the bulletin. "Protection should be extended to such species, either in the form of restricted trapping seasons or by closing the season on them wherever necessary to allow time for them to increase. Powers of game wardens and commissions are being enlarged in some States to permit them to provide wild-life administration programs that are sufficiently flexible to care for the fur resources under changing conditions. This practice should be continued. Inelastic laws too frequently prevent State officials from closing seasons or otherwise restricting the taking of fur animals in emergencies, or when local conditions make such action desirable. Fur animals of nearly every species should receive a full measure of protection in practically all sections of the country."

The bulletin may be obtained free from a Senator or Representative in Congress, or from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., as long as there is a supply available for free distribution.

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